

# PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Western District of Wisconsin  
(608) 264-5158  
TTY (608) 264-5006  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw)

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## For Immediate Release

February 24, 2006

## Contact Person

Elizabeth Altman  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Kenneth Sandvick, 43, of DeSoto, Wisconsin was sentenced on February 22, 2006, by U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb to 45 months in federal prison for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine. Sandvick pleaded guilty to this charge on January 5, 2006.

On May 13, 2003, a search was conducted at Kenneth Sandvick's property on Brown Road in DeSoto. They found numerous items used to manufacture methamphetamine, including ephedrine blister packs, empty cans of Coleman camping fuel, and a Clorox container with a 10-foot length of rubber tubing coming out the top of it. Also seized were several baggies containing methamphetamine.

Investigators later spoke to both Sandvick and Marty Melcher. Sandvick stated that he and Melcher had been making methamphetamine on Sandvick's property for approximately six months. He stated that they had made in excess of 120 grams of methamphetamine.

Melcher told investigators that he and Sandvick had been making methamphetamine on Sandvick's property for the prior 18 months and that they made it approximately 24 times. He estimated that the batches produced between 0-25 grams of methamphetamine each time.

Melcher was previously sentenced to 46 months in prison. Sandvick and Melcher were also ordered to pay almost \$14,000 in restitution for the cost of cleaning up Sandvick's property.

The charges against Sandvick and Melcher were the result of an investigation conducted by the Vernon County Sheriff's Department and the Prairie du Chief office of the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation- Narcotics Bureau. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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